

IS ODD-FELLOWSHIP

A
DIVINE INSTITUTION?

We clip the following from a paper read by Howard Hitchcock at an A. O. U. W. banquet Feb. 4 1913, at Tyro Kansas.

"We love the people of Tyro but we love God and His truth the most of all. May God bless all of you. Fraternity, fellowship, and brotherhood in the lodge may be better than none at all; but fraternity, fellowship, brotherhood, with God and His people is the ideal, the best of all!

Charity within the limited membership of the lodge is good, but does not honor God as unselfish charity in the unlimited brotherhood of mankind. We would not have less fraternity, less fellowship, nor less brotherhood, but vastly more, but we would have it in the name of Christ and not in the name of any man made organization. We would honor God most if we would do God's work God's way in God's church.

Where God's truth would lead us, my wife and I desire to follow. Again I say we love the people of Tyro and may God bless every one. Many husbands have lessened the brotherhood at home to strengthen it here.

Any woman that will drill in this hall until after midnight while her daughter, a young woman, plays on the streets and elsewhere with the boys is more of a lodge member than she is a true mother. God and home come first."

Is Odd Fellowship a Divine Institution?

An Oddfellow mother will never let her daughter run at large on the streets without protection.

We must say it is. Yet we know that the claim is made that it is not. And by those too, who are claimed to be of good authority. Now we must say that if Odd-Fellowship is founded upon the Bible or even Bible principles then it has to be of Divine origin. Of course if it is not founded upon either of those, then we too would have to say that it was and is a man made creed.

So then in order to find out the truth of this question, we will have to thoroughly investigate the matter. There is no doubt with us, but what there are man made creeds. And that too, where they are called Divine institutions. But for the present we shall look into the Odd-Fellow's Lodge room. If we were only permitted to go back to the Seven Stars Tavern in Baltimore, a little over one hundred years ago, even then we would find that it was proclaimed to be of Divine origin, by the men who took part in the re-establishing of the Grand Principles of Odd Fellowship.

But in order to show Mr. Hitchcock or any other one who will criticize such an Article as the one above, that they are entirely wrong—We shall write from a Biblical standpoint.

The first we shall ask is, Reader do you believe that when David cut off the head of Goliath was of Divine origin? This is a grounded principles of Odd Fellowship.

Do you believe that when the heart of David and Jonathan

was knit together, that it was of Divine origin? This is Odd-Fellowship.

Do you believe that when the Good Samaritan lifted the wounded man up, who had been robbed and left for dead, was of Divine origin? If so Odd Fellowship is too: For this is Odd Fellowship.

It may be a fact that Bro. Hitchcock and many more does not know, what Odd Fellowship is, or even what went to make up an Oddfellow. If not it may be a good thing to give them to understand, those principles.

In the first place then we shall go away back into the dark past; and dig up something if we can, that will give us some light, on this all important subject. So please read.

"They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God, they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people, I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation" (Deut. 32-21.)

Now what we want to know is this. What for a man would this be? A man that is not a man. Would this not be an Odd Fellow? If not, please tell us what for a man would he be? For here is the class of people that Odd Fellows originated from; and it was much later on in the History of time, when Odd Fellowship was formed, into the two great human families—That is, it was not brought in until Christ made his advent into the world. And for that purpose. Please read.

"And to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." (Ephes. 3-9.)

Here is fellowship. And what was the ground work of this fellowship, please read.

"Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints.

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you the hope of glory." (Col. 1-26-27.)

What was this done for? please read.

"Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel." (Ephes. 3-5-6)

Here is where Odd Fellowship was brought in. It is of Divine origin. And to still further our claim, we shall ask you to read.

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God; which had not obtained mercy, but now have mercy." (1 Peter 2-9-10.)

Please tell Bro. Hitchcock to hold his peace in regard to Odd Fellowship being a man made creed. But we can hardly blame

him for it, when there is lots of men who are members of the Order that think it is a man Institution. They can't even tell you who was the first N. G. after Christ was crucified, when Paul himself tells you this fact.

Christ choose him the first N. G. to the Gentiles himself and set him in the N. G. chair for Paul to bring about a perfecting of this fellowship. And Paul teaches us himself that they held these particular meetings in secret according to Paul's own language, please read.

"And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who come in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage, (Gal-2-4.)

"Crept in unawares." Crept in where? Into the church?

Could they not come into the church publicly? Was their something in Paul's meetings, that could not be found out without creeping in unawares? Undoubtedly this was the fact.

For Paul said it in his own language, when they crept in unawares to spy out our Liberty, that we have in Christ Jesus. That Liberty they did not dare make known publicly. So we are confident that our Readers will see the Divine origin of Odd-Fellowship, and no longer contend for it as a human institution, for in that day it was the church of the Living Christ. It was the Good Samaritan. But as Paul said,

"That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped: so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." (2 Thes. 2-4.)

This falling away has come, and the dragon; the man of sin, has done his deadly work.

And now we are exposing this man of sin, and bringing about a Restitution of Odd-Fellowship and raising to life the principles of the Good Samaritan. And in this restitution do away with all man made creeds that have their origin under the One Man Theory, set up by the Pope of Rome and Martin Luther.

The man who says that those two Institution, that is Masonry and Odd Fellowship was not divinely instituted, does not know what he is talking about.

But it is a fact that since the dark chasm of persecution has been crossed. And persecution has been abated. Both Masonry and Odd Fellows has left their first Love. The Odd Fellow should never turn their eye away from a distressed or needy brother. But come to their relief. And when this is not done they are not an Odd Fellow.

The Good Samaritan was an Odd Fellow in deed and in truth. And when you find the church that will do that, you will find the Church of Christ, and not until then will you find it. And when you do you will find Odd-

Fellowship restored to its former principles.

When Thomas Wilkey reorganized at Baltimore, persecution had pressed the truth so close the ground; that to the public it was not visible any more: But God kept them in the heart of the few until they once more took root and sent forth branches. And now again those beautiful gems has to a great extent faded to the natural eye of man. And men will say religion has no place in the Lodge room. But nevertheless, no one cannot cross its threshold without taking a solemn obligation to their Maker and fellowman.

So looking forward to the day when she will as a Lodge take her place in the bosom of the bleeding Christ.

We beg to remain a true servant until the Summer sun of our life have closed its last rays up on us and our cold form in death lay hid from the far of western skies, to rise no more for us on earth, but in the Supreme Lodge above arise to us, forever and forever more. Amen.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

NO. 2. OF QUESTIONS No. 70.

2nd. Is there any difference in the gospel of Circumcision committed to Peter, and the gospel of Uncircumcision committed to Paul?

There has been questions, standing in the CRESSET for many months, requesting the preachers to answer them, with Bible Truths. And there has been no one under taken to answer either of them and we have taken it as granted, that they cannot answer them. Yet they will condemn us for our answers, and will say all manner of evil against us. And all the time we are begging for more light if they have any to give us. But the great trouble is that they have none to give. And will not accept any because they love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. For their principles are founded upon the "Love of money the root of all evil." And now we come to Sister Brazeal's request who ask us to answer one of those questions referred to above, and that is the question of the two gospels. And we shall answer this question with the greatest of pleasure. And we want the Dear Sister, and all of our Readers to look at the scriptures which we give, in behalf of our answer, and forget us intire.

Do not let the prejudice you have against us, keep you from seeing the truth of God's Word. So in the first place, please read our Text;

"But contrariwise when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter.

(For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the Apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles.)

And when James, Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that ye should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision." (Gal. 2-7-9.)

There is no sensible man who are honest at heart, that will deny the two gospels spoken of in this scripture which we have quoted as our Text. The gospel of circumcision committed to Peter, for the Israelites and the gospel of uncircumcision committed to Paul for the Gentiles.

Our Text plainly tells you this fact. And that there is two named in our Text. Here is where the one man theory preacher gets up on his ear and says "Garrett is wrong on the two men." For they say that Adam who was placed in the garden, was the first and only man created, when our Text even tells them different from that. Why? we ask. And we answer, because God had to commit a gospel of circumcision to Peter for the descendants of the Formed man who had been placed in the garden.

And this gospel of circumcision, was the Mosaic law to those of the Israelites who would believe on Christ. And in order to prove this matter we shall call your attention to a circumstance which occurred after Paul had preached 17 years to the Gentiles, and that is this.

"And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.

And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.

And when he had saluted them he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.

And when they heard it they glorified the Lord and said unto him Thou seest brother how many thousands of Jews there are which believe and they are all zealous of the law;

And they are informed of thee that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses saying that they ought not to circumcise their children neither to walk after the customs.

What is it therefore the multitude must needs come together for they will hear that thou art come.

Do therefore this that we say to thee; We have four men which have a vow on them;

Them take and purify thyself with them and be at charges with them that they may shave their heads; and all may know that those things whereof they were informed concerning thee are nothing but that thou thyself also walkest orderly and keepest the law.

As touching the Gentiles which believe we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.

Then Paul took the men and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification until that an offering should be offered for every one of them." (Acts 21-17-26.)

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